THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Two cases of non-payment of wages to Indian workers by Singapore Construction Companies have been brought to the notice of the Government. The High Commission of India, Singapore intervened effectively. The High Commissioner met the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Manpower, Government of Singapore. As a result the workers were able to get partial payment of their dues plus free return air passage to India.

(c) There are standing instructions to the Indian Missions and Posts to safeguard the interest of all Indian nationals including workers employed abroad.

New scheme for interest rate on employees provident fund

133. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to offer differential rates of interest on Employees Provident Fund to workers with different EPF deposits, the rate being higher for low deposits below certain levels;

(b) if so, the details of the new scheme; and

(c) the reaction of different national labour unions thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Job opportunities in agricultural and industrial sectors

134. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that job opportunities in agricultural and industrial sectors of the country are on the decline; and

(b) the estimated annual rates of increase in the number of job seekers in both the sectors?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) Estimates of employment and

unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation from time to time. Last two surveys were conducted during 1993-94 and 1999-2000. As per these surveys, industry-wise distribution of employed persons on usual status basis during 1993-94 and 1999-2000 is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) Sector wise data on Job seekers are not maintained. However, the number of Job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed on the live register of the employment exchanges which was of the order of 413.44 lakh as on 31st December, 2000 has gone up to 413.89 lakh as on 31st December, 2003.

Statement

Industry-wise distribution of employed persons

(In Crores)

Industry	Employment 1993-94	Employment 1999-2000
Agriculture	24.2	23.8
Mining and Quarrying	0.27	0.23
Manufacturing	4.25	4.80
Electricity, gas and water supply	0.14	0.13
Construction	1.17	1.76
Trade	2.78	3.73
Transport, Storage and Communication	1.03	1.47
Financial Services	0.35	0.51
Community Social and Pers. Services	3.51	3.32
Total Employment	37.45	39.70

NOTE:-

(i) Total may not tally due to rounding off.

(ii) Data for total employment has been derived from the results of the NSSO surveys.